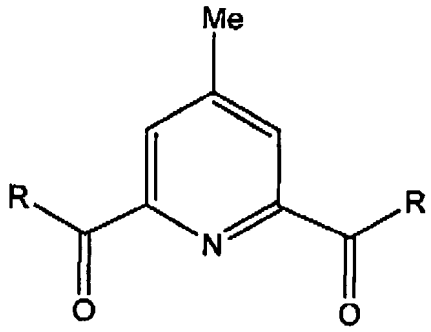
Amendments to the Claims

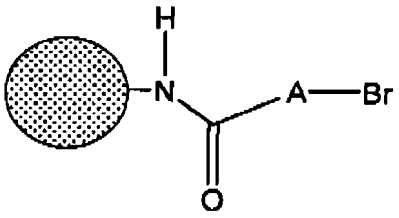
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of claims:

11. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a supported catalyst component for the production of hollow beads of polyethylene comprising: (a) providing a first component characterized by the formula:

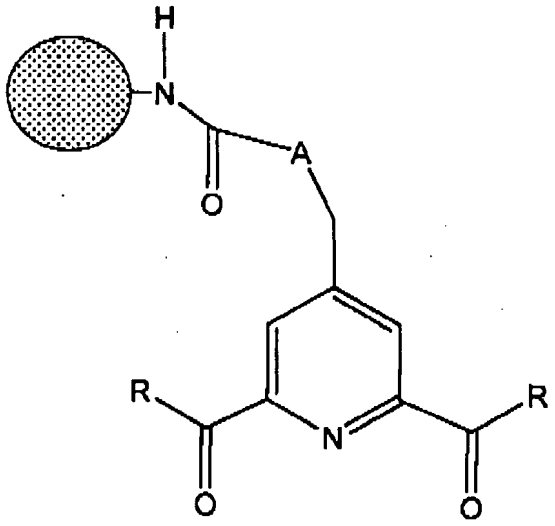


wherein R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; (b) providing a porous functionalized bead of polystyrene characterized by the formula:



wherein A is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 2 to 18 carbon atoms providing a flexible arm;

creating a covalent bond between the component of subparagraph (a) and the porous functionalized bead of subparagraph (b) to produce a complex characterized by the formula:



providing a first alkyl- or aryl-amine characterized by the formula:

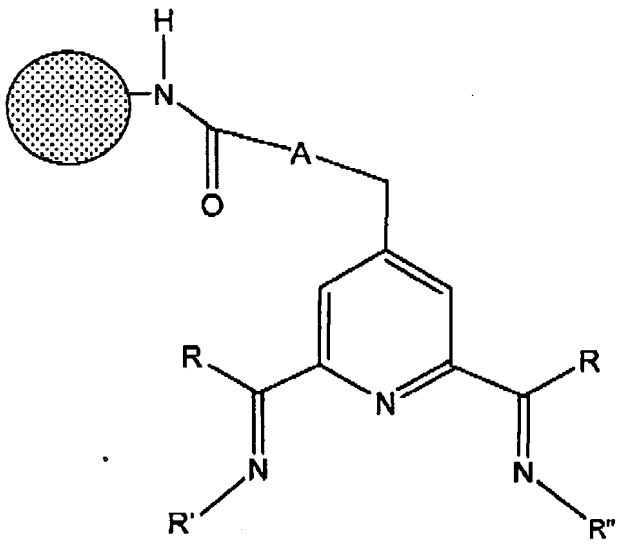
$$R'\text{-}NH_2$$

wherein: R' is an alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted aryl group, or a substituted aryl group having substituents having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms;

providing a second alkyl- or aryl-imine characterized by the formula:

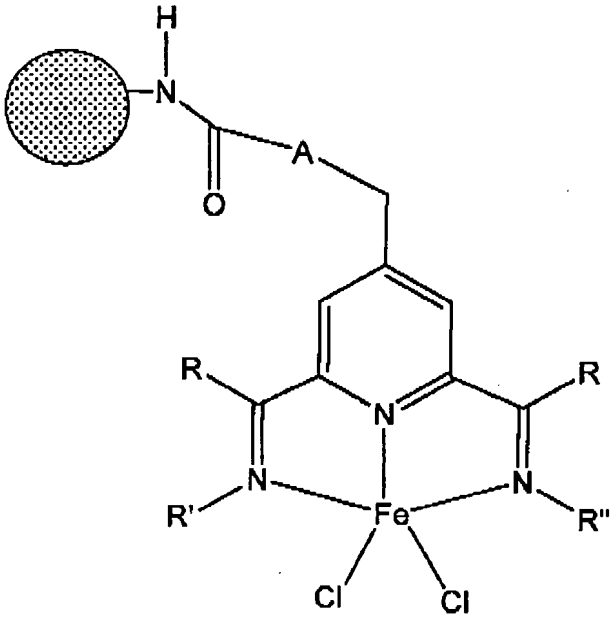
$$R''\text{-}NH_2$$

wherein: R" is an alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted aryl group, or a substituted aryl group having substituents having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; provided that R" may be the same or different as R'; reacting the complex of subparagraph (c) with said first and second alkyl- or aryl-amines of subparagraphs (d) and (e) to produce a bis-imine complex characterized by the formula:



wherein R, R' and R" are as defined above and R' and R" may be the same or different; and

reacting the bis-imine of subparagraph (f) with ferric chloride in a solvent to produce a catalyst component characterized by formula:



wherein R, R' and R" are as defined above.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the alkyl group A contains from 3 to 6 carbon atoms.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein R is an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein R' and R" are the same and are substituted or unsubstituted phenyl groups.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said phenyl groups are substituted with isopropyl groups at positions 2 and 6.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said phenyl groups are substituted with methyl groups at positions 2, 4 and 6.

17.-21. (Canceled)